

**REMARKS**

In the Office Action, dated August 26, 2005, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 5 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by JP 08-236,475 (hereinafter KENO). Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in dependent claims 3, 4, 7 and 8.

By way of this amendment, Applicants have amended claim 1 to incorporate the subject matter of claim 3, which the Office Action has indicated as being allowable. Claim 4 has been amended to depend from claim 1. New claim 31, which corresponds to the subject matter of claim 7 that the Examiner has indicated as being allowable, has been added. New claims 32-37, which depend from claim 31, have also been added. New claim 38 has further been added. No new matter has been added by the present amendment. Claims 3 and 9-30 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Reconsideration of the outstanding rejection is respectfully requested in view of the amendments above and the following remarks.

In paragraph 2, the Office Action rejects claims 1, 2, 5 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by KENO. Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 3, which the Office has indicated as being allowable. Claims 2, 5 and 6 depend from claim 1 and, therefore, should also be allowable. In view of this amendment, Applicants believe that claims 1, 2, 5 and 6 should be in condition for allowance, and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 2, 5 and 5 is respectfully requested.

New claim 31 recites the subject matter of claim 7, which was indicated by the Examiner as being allowable. Claim 31, and dependent claims 32-37, should, therefore, be in condition for

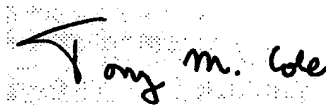
allowance.

New claim 38 recites a “method of forming a contact hole through an inter-layer dielectric” that includes “forming a layer of polysilicon material over the inter-layer dielectric,” “forming an anti-reflective coating (ARC) layer on the layer of polysilicon material in a pattern corresponding to a desired shape of the contact hole,” “oxidizing the layer of polysilicon material around the pattern of the ARC layer to form an oxidized layer,” “removing the ARC layer to expose an un-oxidized portion of the polysilicon layer beneath the oxidized layer having a shape corresponding to the pattern,” “etching the un-oxidized portion of the polysilicon layer to form a first contact hole through the un-oxidized portion of the polysilicon layer” and “etching the inter-layer dielectric through the first contact hole using the polysilicon layer as a mask to form a second contact hole through the inter-layer dielectric.” KENO discloses the oxidization of a polysilicon layer 12 and etching of the oxidized portion 15 of the polysilicon layer 12 to form a contact hole 16 through the oxidized portion 15 of the polysilicon layer 12 (see paragraphs [0017] and [0018] of “Detailed Description;” Drawing 1 (d), (e), (f) and (g)). KENO does not disclose or suggest, among other features, “removing the ARC layer to expose an un-oxidized portion of the polysilicon layer beneath the oxidized layer having a shape corresponding to the pattern” and “etching the un-oxidized portion of the polysilicon layer to form a first contact hole through the un-oxidized portion of the polysilicon layer.” Applicants, therefore, submit that new claim 38 patentably distinguishes over KENO.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner's reconsideration of this application, and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR § 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 50-1070 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tony M. Cole". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "T".

By: \_\_\_\_\_

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